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## **Public Comment**

Regarding Trail Portals, a Standing Committee of the  
California Recreational Trails Committee  
Agenda

August 12, 2008

By

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Members of the Trails Portal Committee:

"Improving relationships and interaction between government entities and the private sector is necessary for the effective development of a well-planned and managed trail and greenway system. Open communication between all levels of government and interested parties enhances the common objectives by making individuals and groups part of the solution. Linking communities and trail advocates in trail planning minimizes land use conflicts and allows for optimal resource use. Joint planning emphasizes the development of interconnected trails in natural settings, and a united effort creates a stronger voice for advancing trail proposals."

An Internet Portal, focused on the twenty six regional trail systems, is important . An alternative to an all inclusive, comprehensive site hosted and funded by CSP is a trails' website that literally acts as a portal to existing trails

websites currently being hosted by a variety of trail advocates and agencies at the regional level.

Nearly three quarters of the Regional Systems have comprehensive websites, many of whose trail systems are primarily managed by other agencies. Websites and information on the remaining[1][1] systems may be available from advocates, agencies or users. The majority of the regional systems have comprehensive websites, including maps, hours of operation, amenities. No CSP resources are required for the upkeep or management of these existing websites.

This year's Trail Conference theme was "Building Trails - Building Partnerships" Regional Trail Systems' websites are an ideal opportunity for the members of the CRTC to lead by example and assist jurisdictional agencies, trail users and land managers by facilitating partnerships locally focused on the 26 regional systems through their web presence.

While volunteer systems may be more prone to inaccuracies, the resources needed to constantly keep updating trail information on the current status of all 26 trail systems in the California Recreational Trails Plan, may itself be inaccurate due to issues of timeliness or managerial changes.

Los Angeles Trails Project would welcome the opportunity to outreach and partner with the CRTC regarding desirable elements for the Rim of the Valley website. If State Parks were to outreach to all other websites, they may find others willing to participate in supporting regional trails to the benefit of the entire system. There are no better trail systems than those whose advocacy is built from the ground up.

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[1][1] Toulumne Complex Trail, Questa to Sespe Trail, Condor Trail, San Gabriel River Trail, Whittier to Ortega Trail, Merced River Trail , Rim of the Valley Trail

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